

SUPPLEMENT TO

The Saturday Review

No. 2169, Vol. 83.

22 May, 1897.

GRATIS.

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SUPPLEMENT.

LONDON: 22 MAY, 1897.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

LORD CROMER.

"Lord Cromer: a Biography." By H. D. Traill. Illustrated. London: Bliss. 1897.

IT was doubtless inevitable that according to the remorseless habit of the times Lord Cromer should be stretched upon the table of the biographical vivisection, and he has reason to felicitate himself on falling under the hands of so skilful and rapid an operator as Mr. Traill. This vigorous journalist, we know, like a still more eminent pamphleteer, can "write elegantly upon a broomstick," and though Lord Cromer has all the best qualities of a broom, and none at all of a stick, he affords a stimulating subject for Mr. Traill's eloquence. Indeed few among living statesmen possess so striking a personality and so remarkable a career as the great "Proconsul" who has raised Egypt from the dead. No feat more difficult, more successful, or more creditable to the civilizing influence of England can be cited than the resurrection of Egypt; and the glory and honour of that triumph belong to Lord Cromer, and practically to him alone; since the conspicuously able staff who have worked under him and contributed to the successful issue were chosen by himself and would be helpless without his firm and staunch support.

The biography of such a ruler of men will some day be a fascinating study, but it cannot be written now. Mr. Traill is fully aware of this, and though he calls his essay "a biography," he is perfectly conscious of its shortcomings and limitations. The greater part of a diplomatist's work lies beneath the surface, and cannot be dug up till the matter of his negotiations has become ancient history. Mr. Traill has not written a biography in any full or adequate sense: he has written a journalistic sketch of recent Egyptian history, including and emphasizing such parts of it as were specially influenced by Sir Evelyn Baring. He possesses no private materials, but bases his narrative upon the ordinary Blue-books, supplemented by copious extracts from Sir William Butler and Sir Alfred Milner. He pretends to no intimate acquaintance with the subject of his memoir, though, like most people who spend a winter in Cairo, he was received at the Agency. Nor has he troubled himself with much research among published records, but has been content to go to the most obvious sources, familiar to even that much-decried gentleman, "the man in the street." Accustomed to rapid work and hurried proof-reading, his book betrays its hasty composition. We are told (p. 21) that Lord Northbrook married Miss Errington—a statement which Lady Cromer will scarcely endorse. On p. 25 we read that "It . . . define the object of this step." Personal pronouns are often used in an obscure and confusing manner, and we find inverted commas at the end of a quotation, with none to show where it began. 1890 appears for 1880 (p. 48); Stephens for Sir James Stephen (p. 83); the 5th of March is made to follow the 10th (p. 111); Fehmy is printed for Fakhri Pasha, reversing the whole point (p. 285); and important dates of despatches and appointments are frequently omitted. It has not appeared worth while to devote more than two pages to the history of the Baring family, and the little that is given is stated confusedly, so that we are left in doubt as to the order of Sir Francis Baring's sons and grandsons, and in ignorance of the name of the first wife of Lord Cromer's father. In short, the book is good enough journalism, but hardly history, still less biography. It is disfigured by a virulent partisan spirit which is incompatible with the historian's judgment, and it is biased by an uncritical tone of panegyric which breeds distrust of a biographer. We have as little toleration as Mr. Traill for the opportunism and "shilly-shallying" of the Gladstone Administration which blundered so miserably over the Soudan question and brought about the martyrdom of a hero;

but in a work of this kind perpetual gibes at the Radicals, however appropriate in a Conservative leading article, are totally misplaced. Of course, it is all very clever; sarcasm and epigram abound; but one feels all the time that one is reading one's evening paper in the train.

Apart from thirty pages on Major Baring's work as Financial Member of the Viceroy of India's Council, and twenty pages on his early military studies and writings, the whole book is occupied with the history of Egypt from 1875 to 1896, and nearly a third of the volume treats of the Gordon negotiations—of which we must say we think quite enough has already been written. Mr. Traill has some excuse for replying to the generally unfounded or exaggerated accusations levied by Mr. Egmont Hake and Mr. Demetrius Boulger against Sir Evelyn Baring; but he has gone over the whole controversy once more in relentless and unnecessary detail. According to him Lord Cromer can do no wrong; yet as he suggests that in the case of the Ilbert Bill, for example, or the powers of the Caisse de la Dette, Lord Cromer's views may have become modified as his experience grew riper, would it not be more candid to admit that the Consul-General at Cairo may perhaps have been a little slow to grasp the necessary conditions for the solution of the Soudan problem? It is evident that Sir Evelyn Baring changed his mind about the employment of Gordon and Zubeir and an expedition from Suakin to Berber. How far these changes were due to the vacillations of Downing Street we cannot now tell. Lord Cromer is the last man in the world to vindicate himself at the expense of his Government, and the twentieth century will be far on its way before we learn the whole truth. We believe that if Sir Evelyn Baring had then possessed the commanding influence which he now exerts, and had firmly pressed a vigorous policy upon Lord Granville, he would have compelled the feeblest of modern Administrations to walk in his path. But one must not forget that he was hardly settled in the saddle when the trouble began, and that his prestige was then not to be compared with his present reputation. On the whole, we must accept the warm testimony of Sir Henry Gordon to the earnest sympathy and unflagging support accorded to his heroic brother by the English Consul-General.

Mr. Traill rightly lays stress, as Sir Alfred Milner did before him, on the brilliant inspiration which led Lord Cromer to devote the spare million of the 1885 loan to the repair of the Barrage and the reconstruction of the irrigation of the Delta, which resulted in an immense increase in the fertility and wealth of Egypt. But whilst dwelling on the Consul-General's just pride at the recollection of this admirable step, he entirely omits to mention another *coup* which has caused Lord Cromer almost equal satisfaction. We cannot find a word in this volume about the diplomatic victory which followed the apparent defeat on the struggle over the half-million advanced by the Caisse de la Dette for the Dongola expedition. Worst of all in the law courts by the intrigues of France and Russia, England and Egypt seemed hopelessly foiled; when the Consul-General, with that resourcefulness which never deserts him, played his trump card. He guaranteed the half-million in the name of his Government; the money was paid in sterling gold within three days; and instead of gaining a victory, France and Russia found that England had acquired a new claim upon Egypt. The astonishment of their representatives at Cairo was ludicrous: as an actor in the drama said to the writer at the time, "They were simply thrown on their backs"; whilst in a certain room of the British Agency, if ever such sounds are heard in diplomatic sanctums, there was an audible chuckle.

Of recent passages at arms between the young Khedive and the statesman who acts pretty much as a "Resident" over him, Mr. Traill has much to say; but he is wrong in thinking that Abbas II. has had only a Continental education: he had as a boy two successive English tutors, one of whom was a Fellow of an Oxford college. The interview between Lord Cromer and the Khedive, when it was necessary to bring the latter to his bearings after his dismissal of the Prime Minister, Mustafa Fehmy, is, of course, mere rumour; but it has

the look of truth. "It is tolerably well known," says Mr. Traill, "that on the side of the British Consul-General very plain language had to be used. It was currently reported in Cairo that at a critical point in one of their colloquies Lord Cromer had to invite his Highness to look from a window of the Abdin Palace on a British regiment paraded for some military purpose or other on the square without, and thus tacitly to remind him of the irresistible power which lay behind the measured and courteous remonstrances of his adviser." But when Mr. Traill goes on to say that these remonstrances have at last caused the Khedive to be convinced that the English are his most helpful friends, and that all others are his enemies in disguise, we must demur. The Khedive is, not in the least reconciled to his position; he is still under French influence; and his relations with his British advisers are sullen and obstructive. There is not the slightest hope that Abbas II. will ever be anything but an incubus upon the British administration in Egypt.

The volume ends with some interesting personal traits of the famous Consul-General, contributed by an intimate friend. One is glad to know that the Artillery officer who has risen to the highest rank as financier and civil administrator has still time to cultivate his old passion for literature, and reads his Homer or his Juvenal every morning before he begins work. Some of his characteristics, however, are wholly omitted. Lord Cromer is an indefatigable tennis-player, and still better an admirable hand at whist and piquet; when his work is over he may look forward with confidence to a cheerful old age. His portrait at the beginning of the volume is an excellent likeness, and there are several other good illustrations, notably the portraits of the Khedive and of Osman Digna. But for all that, we see no particular reason why the book, absolutely devoid of new material, should have been written. It is a mere outsider's recapitulation of familiar facts.

MR. GLADSTONE'S LATER GLEANINGS.

"Later Gleanings: a New Series of Gleanings of Past Years." By the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone. London: John Murray. 1897.

THIS volume is the eighth of Mr. Gladstone's later gleanings. It is made up of thirteen articles on subjects theological and ecclesiastical, with all of which we have already made acquaintance, usually in the columns of the "Nineteenth Century." This second meeting with the subject matter of the book confirms us in an old-standing belief of ours, that in Mr. Gladstone a most excellent archbishop was lost in the politician. The bent of his mind has notoriously always been towards theology, and though there are few subjects, grave or gay, lively or severe, which during his long life he has not touched and adorned, if not always illuminated, he is nowhere so perfectly at home as in theology, and especially in theological disputations. We are afraid he is not always convincing, but he appears to be quite satisfied with himself, his point of view, and his resources of dialectic and learning (which are considerable), and refuses to be "downed" by the most redoubtable antagonist. He is always interesting on paper, and sometimes stimulating and even instructive. Everything he writes is, we suppose, matter of considerable concern to many people. Were it otherwise, we should scarcely have thought it worth his while to reprint some of the essays in the present volume. "Professor Huxley and the Swine Miracle" is a good specimen of his dexterity, and as such may be tolerated, though few will contend that Mr. Gladstone showed to conspicuous advantage in that controversy. But there is nothing particularly new or true either in the facts or in the presentation of the facts in the paper on "Ingersoll on Christianity"; and that on "Robert Elsmere"; the "Battle of Belief" might have been allowed to die with the dismal treatise which gave occasion for it. The article, however, is by no means so dull as the book, and this may be said for it, that in its day it fulfilled a good purpose by affording many excellent people as adequate a notion as they desired of the miscalled novel, and thereby saving them from making personal acquaintance with it. The remain-

ing essays deal—controversially, of course—with questions of religious or historico-religious interest, and for the author's treatment of them are deserving of no little consideration. They include discussions—or perhaps we should say dissertations—on the Dawn of Creation and of Worship, suggested by Dr. Réville's "Prolégomènes de l'Histoire des Religions"; on the Proem to Genesis, which is a reply to the criticisms of Professors Huxley and Max Müller on the preceding paper; on True and False Conceptions of the Atonement, the text of which was Mrs. Besant's Autobiography; on the Lord's Day; on the Place of Heresy and Schism in the Modern Christian Church; on the Elizabethan Settlement of Religion; on the Attitude of Queen Elizabeth to the Church of England; and on the Church under Henry VIII. Mr. Gladstone has also reprinted here the general introduction which he contributed to the Pictorial Bible of an enterprising Chicago man, as well as his Letter on the Validity of Anglican Orders, into which, by his own showing, he appears to have been "drawn" simply that the Pope might—to use a vulgarism—smash him. It may be said for the essays as a whole that, while of very unequal merit, they are all distinguished by the qualities—breadth of scholarship, strength of superficial belief, catholicity of taste, &c.—which we have met with before in Mr. Gladstone's writings.

To the letter on Anglican Orders Mr. Gladstone adds a postscript, rendered necessary by the later developments. "My intervention in this matter," he says in a footnote, "would have been wholly unwarrantable had it been gratuitous. The *Soliloquium* was not written until (to my great surprise) I had received from Rome the tidings that in the highest ecclesiastical quarters a declaration of the kind from me was *vivement désiré*. Further, I wrote to an old friend, holding a distinguished position in the Italian Church, a letter couched in terms not less warm than those of the *Soliloquium*; and I received through him, from the official representative of his Holiness and on his behalf, a most gracious acknowledgment, the terms of which I feel myself authorized to publish should it be demanded." This explains a matter about which there has been not a little soreness. Will Mr. Gladstone be so good as to publish the acknowledgment? He tells us he believes in the Pope's good intentions "as fully as before"; but he sees no further reason to be conciliatory, and to do him justice he hits hard.

MATHEMATICAL BIOLOGY.

"The Chances of Death, and other Studies in Evolution." By Karl Pearson. London: Edward Arnold. 1897.

TO the older philosophical writers and to the perennial popular imagination the goddess Chance is the personification of lawless caprice. Her dictates were supposed to be irresponsible to any conceivable law, outside the pale of reason or prediction. A large part of the bitterness with which the conceptions of Darwin were assailed came from his use of the term "chance." It was unavailing that he constantly explained his meaning by such phrases as "variations, which in our ignorance we term chance"; the inclusion of the word in any reasoning about the prodigious development of life, in ascending chains from low to high, was held to be a puerile or malign assault upon human intelligence. Although Darwinism no longer is branded as inherently incredible from such unintelligent glosses on Darwin's meaning, a great part of the present controversy on the method of evolution turns on the meaning of the word chance. A small school of English workers, of whom Mr. Galton and Professor Weldon may be taken as the chief biologists and the author of the present volumes as the chief mathematician, have elaborated a new method of investigation into the secrets of Nature, a method which may be termed mathematical biology. The second essay in the "Chances of Death" serves as an introduction to this new weapon for the assault of Nature. The roulette tables at Monte Carlo have long served the moralist as a supreme instance of the follies of chance: it occurred to Professor Pearson that they

might serve as an experimental laboratory for investigating its scientific aspect. "At Monte Carlo is the most sacred shrine of the goddess; in the directors and croupiers of the famous gambling establishment are to be found her high priests. There, if nowhere else on earth, Chance reigns supreme. In my enthusiasm, Monte Carlo appeared to me in a new light; it was clearly a scientific laboratory preparing material for the natural philosopher." The apparatus consists of a disc with thirty-seven compartments of equal size on its edge; this is spun round, and in a hollow rim lying above it a ball is spun round in an opposite direction. When the impulses are over the ball rolls into one of the compartments. The highest skill is used in the original manufacture and daily adjustment of the mechanism, and it might be expected that "chance" in its perfect form ruled the dropping of the ball into any slot. Eighteen of the compartments may be regarded as red, eighteen as black; the odd compartment, the zero of the tables, is neutral so far as red and black are concerned, and is to be neglected, as in tossing pennies one might neglect occasions on which the penny alighted on its edge. On any particular occasion the chance of a red or black answers the popular conception: it is absolutely not to be predicted. But on a sufficiently large number of trials the mathematical conception of chance demands that red and black should occur an equal number of times. More than that, mathematical chance demands that each series of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and so forth, successive reds or blacks shall occur a predictable number of times in a sufficiently large number of experiments. The theory of chance, indeed, involves precisely the opposite of the popular conception; if a result is "pure chance," the colours and numbers of sequences can be predicted. If, on investigation of a sufficient number of cases, the theoretical results are not approximately reached, something other than chance is at work. After investigation of the records of the tables for long periods, and comparison of them with the theoretical results—a piece of laborious and intricate mathematical work—Professor Pearson came to the conclusion that so far from the working of the tables at Monte Carlo being supreme instances of chance, they formed the "most prodigious miracles." Events the theoretical occurrence of which was once in many thousand million years repeated themselves within a fortnight.

It is not, however, in the discovery of the miraculous dispensation of the late M. Blanc, but in the application of these investigations to biology that the interest and value of Professor Pearson's volumes lie. If we substitute natural occurrences, such as births or deaths or the relation of stature to fertility, for reds and blacks, it may be seen at once that this mathematical method gives an indication of disturbing factors. In the first essay he applies the method to the incidence of death. In the course of this he explains most clearly the use of a particular device now employed in all investigations which deal with a large and varying series of figures. The figures have to be plotted out in curves similar to those by which the daily variations of the barometer are shown in the newspapers. By a simple diagram (page 23) the nature of these curves is explained. Suppose a target with a central bull's-eye to be placed vertically and to have under it a number of transparent columns into which the spent bullets would fall. Take an imaginary case in which each bullet, after hitting the target, would without rebound or lateral deviation fall into the column vertically under the spot which it struck. When an accurate marksman had discharged a large number of shots, he would have hit the vertical line of the bull's-eye most frequently, and the column under the bull's-eye would be nearly full. The lateral columns representing inaccuracies to right or left would be successively lower and lower until the extreme lateral columns, representing extreme deviation, would be almost empty. The lines joining the summits of the columns of bullets would form a curve, highest under the bull's eye, reaching the ground at the same distance on either side. The success of the marksman would be represented by the sharpness of the curve; in the case of complete accuracy only the central column would have any bullets; decreasing accuracy would flatten the curve

until, in the case of complete inaccuracy, the curve would be a horizontal line, each distance to right and left being hit as often as the central spot. All these curves would represent mathematical chance. However, suppose that the rifle had a defect unknown to the marksman by which the balls were deflected slightly to the left; or suppose the marksman's eye to have a similar but unrecognized effect. It would then follow that the highest point of the curve would be not under the bull's-eye, but to the left of the bull's-eye. Such a curve is known as a skew curve, and its occurrence when any set of statistics are accurately plotted out shows the existence of some disturbing, directing factor. Most of the essays in the first volume contain the results of investigations into human statistics by this method, and show how it may be used to discover the existence of special factors in the evolution of man. The actual nature of the theoretical curves is rarely of the simple kind supposed in the example we have selected from the Professor's treatise; but we hope to have succeeded in persuading readers to take Mr. Pearson's own guidance over the more difficult paths of his fascinating subject. The investigation of the curve of mortality, for instance, shows disturbances at work at five different epochs. These are explained in the fullest way in the course of the chapter; but they are also represented in a striking Holbein-like sketch of "the bridge of life," which appears as the frontispiece to the volume. The second volume deals with less mathematical, but equally interesting, phases of the study of man, and we have pleasure in welcoming a new work of extreme scientific value and of deep popular interest.

A MODERN GRAND TOUR.

"A Ride through Western Asia." By Clive Bigham. London: Macmillan & Co. 1897.

FROM a prefatory note which the publishers have inserted in the present volume we gather that Mr. Clive Bigham, having served in the Grenadier Guards and been for some time Honorary Attaché to the British Embassy at St. Petersburg, is now acting as war correspondent for a leading London paper in the near East. Of this at least we may be sure, that unless his luck has completely changed, fortune is smiling on Mr. Bigham. He is the luckiest of travellers. For him, in the very height of the Armenian troubles, when the strictest orders were issued by the Porte that Asia Minor was to be a closed land to Europeans, its gates were opened wide; and everywhere else—except in the case of Afghanistan, which he had hoped to include in his journey—difficulties presented themselves only to disappear. Mr. Bigham left Constantinople in June 1895, and a year later found himself at St. Petersburg, having in the intervening twelve months travelled through Asia Minor from west to east, crossed and recrossed Persia, visited Turkish Arabia, Kurdistan, the Russian and Chinese provinces of Central Asia, crossed the Tian Shan Mountains and the vast plain that lies between the mountains and Omsk, the Siberian town on the Trans-Siberian Railway where he again found himself in touch with civilization. Mr. Bigham was asked more than once by curious Orientals what was the object of his journey. His answer to one of his questioners who knew a little French was, "Pour m'amuser," but it is clear that Mr. Bigham succeeded in deriving a good deal of instruction as well as amusement from his journey. In some respects this narrative of his travels is precisely what such a narrative should be. It is not too long—a positive virtue in these days when a summer vacation fills a ponderous tome. It is mainly a narrative of personal impressions and experiences, the only things of any real value when the traveller has no lengthy experience of the countries and peoples he is describing. It is told in simple and straightforward language, with sufficient detail as to the machinery of travel to be useful to other travellers who may be following the same route, but without any tedious insistence on the incidents of each day's routine.

The earlier portion of the journey, through the Asiatic provinces of Turkey, is told in rather fuller

detail than Mr. Bigham allows himself after leaving Persia and entering Central Asia, but if the reader is inclined to wish that Mr. Bigham had devoted a little more space to his Central Asian experiences, that is certainly preferable to his wishing that they had been curtailed. Mr. Bigham strikes us as a clear-headed and unimpassioned observer, and his remarks on the characteristics of the various races with whom he was brought into contact are often shrewd as well as goodnatured. He neglected no opportunity, where the linguistic difficulty did not prove an insuperable bar, of learning what men of every rank and station, from the governor of a province to the members of his escort, thought of the political situation. At Hassan Kaleb, between Erzerum and Bayazid, a doctor gave him some views on the Armenian question, which are at least worthy of consideration. There were, he said, only two things to be done. "Either the Turk must rule his provinces in his own way, or the European must step in and rule them in his way. If the Turk rules, the old system will drag on; oppression here, petty tyranny there, speculation and immorality everywhere, and now and again a massacre. Perhaps there may be a slow improvement in roads, schools and civilization generally, but it will be a long time coming. If the European rules, he will rule after his kind, whether he be Russian or English, on some fixed plan for some definite result. Half measures, such as the appointment of Christian governors, or a mixed police force, can only bring about a worse state of things." One feature of Mr. Bigham's book for which a word of commendation must not be forgotten is the illustrations, which are not only numerous but well selected. The maps, too, enable his route to be followed without any difficulty.

A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE.

"The Concise Knowledge Library: Natural History."
London: Hutchinson. 1897.

"ISSUED at a price which makes it phenomenal," to quote the editor's modest preamble, this opening volume of a new library certainly gives good weight. Within less than eight hundred pages, too, it covers a vast field of knowledge; and we have the labours of a number of naturalists of repute bound together in a not unpleasing form. We have even been at pains, not resting satisfied as we might pardonably have done with the guarantee offered by their names, to test the accuracy of the work at just those points where popular zoological literature is apt to stumble, without having once found it wanting. Yet, for all its excellence in many ways, we confess to a doubt as to the exact class of readers for whom a work of this nature can have been designed. For the book tells either too much or too little. Clearly, it is not for the beginner, or we should have found the often technical verbiage explained in a glossary. If not for the beginner, for what grade of student can this inexpensive *précis* of animate nature be intended? Possibly the student of distribution will derive the most help from its pages. The life histories are necessarily too meagre to be of any service, and the whole rather impresses one, even in uncritical mood, as a catalogue of a huge menagerie.

With the precise extent of the editor's labours we are not acquainted; but they should not, considering the class of his contributors, have been so heavy as to permit of his passing errors in the spelling of the name of Bennett of Australian fame, of "Merops" (p. 341), or of many similar words. He might also have insisted on more uniformity of treatment throughout—for instance as the insertion of Latin names beneath the cuts of fishes, as they are given in the remaining sections; for the first duty of the editor of a composite work of this nature is surely to assimilate those differences of arrangement which are so liable to irritate, if not confuse, the reader of the whole. The illustrations are ambitious in their quantity. A few respectably reproduced would, we think, have been preferable to many hundreds of such indifferent quality. But perhaps the publishers know their public. We confess once more that we do not.

LITERARY NOTES.

ON account of an unexpected delay in the process of production, the publication of the second volume of Mr. Edwin O. Sachs' work, "Modern Opera Houses and Theatres" (B. T. Batsford), due this month, will have to be postponed until June. The author has been able to include some plates of Mr. Tree's new theatre lately opened, and also of the new Opéra Comique at Paris, which is nearly completed.

In connexion with the fearful fire at the Paris Bazaar, Messrs. Layton, the Insurance publishers, have arranged with Mr. Edwin O. Sachs for the immediate publication of a treatise, entitled "Fires and Public Entertainments," which will include exhaustive particulars of over 1,200 fires which have occurred at theatres, music halls, assembly rooms, and temporary buildings, involving over 20,000 fatalities. Mr. Sachs aims at strengthening the hands of those anxious to ensure the safety of the public when attending places of amusement.

Mr. Michael Mulhall's "Dictionary of Statistics," which was published in 1890, has been so successful that a new edition is to be issued towards the end of the year. In this edition the compiler will not only carefully revise all the existing portion of this work but will add 100 pages.

Miss Florence Upton has completed a book full of drawings of children and child life. The title chosen for the work is "Little Hearts." It will be printed in colours and will be published as a Christmas book during the winter months.

The fresh triumphs with which Prince Ranjitsinhji has opened the season should lend an added popularity to his volume on Cricket which Messrs. Blackwood & Sons are issuing. Besides the technical interest of the book, it is hinted that a feature is to be the batsman's opinions on some of his most celebrated compeers.

The effect of a successful play on the popularity of a novel with a similar theme has been proved on several occasions. Mr. Pinero's dramatization of the "Maitre de Forge" sold eighty thousand of the book; while Charles Gibson's neglected story "The Dead Heart" was eagerly bought up when the stage adaptation was being played at the Lyceum. Thirty thousand copies have been sold of "The Sign of the Cross," and it remains to be seen if Mr. John de Villiers' translation of "Madame Sans-Gêne" will break the record.

Mr. George Allen is shortly publishing another book on that never-failing topic of interest, the Transvaal. "Boers and Little Englanders" is from the pen of Mr. John Proctor, barrister-at-law, and details the history of the Republic from the first settlement of the Dutch in 1836 to the present unsettled state of the country. A special prominence will be given to the Boer's treatment of the Kaffir.

There is a rumour that in the distribution of Jubilee honours the heads of the publishing world are not to be forgotten. It is a tardy recognition of a body that has been second only to the authors themselves in building up the superb fabric of English literature.

A work of some philological importance is in course of production by Messrs. Kegan Paul & Co. "Euryan Roots" gives the pedigree of a large proportion of English words now in use, with their derivatives systematically arranged and compared with corresponding words in the cognate languages. The author is Mr. J. Baly, M.A., of Worcester College, Oxford, who was late Archdeacon of Calcutta. The book will be in two volumes, the second containing complete indices of the English and foreign words dealt with.

A veritable bibliographical treasure-house will be opened to the public at Sotheby's next month, when the famous Ashburnham Library will be put up for sale. Among the biblical section is the first printed edition of the Bible, indeed the first production from metal type. This volume was purchased by Mr. Perkins, the brewer, for £500, and afterwards resold to Lord Ashburnham for £3,400. Other valuable works are the first printed Latin Bible (1462), Caxton's

"De Consolacione Philosophiæ," and a first edition of Caxton's "Canterbury Pilgrims."

A faithful picture of the real Greek is supposed to be given in M. Edmond About's "King of the Mountains," the English translation of which Mr. Heinemann is issuing this week. The introduction is furnished by the ubiquitous Mr. Lang. The volume in the original French was selected for the recent examinations at Cambridge.

The revival of interest in Colonial history has been liberally met by the publishers. Yet another contribution is forthcoming from Messrs. Sampson Low in the Hon. William Gisborne's "New Zealand Rulers and Statesmen." The author, who was formerly a member of the House of Representatives, and also of the New Zealand Ministry, first published the book about ten years ago, but has lately rewritten it. Nearly fifty portraits will accompany the text.

Another timely production of Messrs. Sampson Low's, in view of the Jubilee celebrations, will be a book on Siam by Professor Maxwell Somerville, of Pennsylvania University, who last year journeyed up the Meinam River, from the Gulf to the jungle of Ayuthia.

A series of stories by Miss Bertha Thomas, presenting pictures of English society from various aspects, is soon to be published by Messrs. Sampson Low in a volume entitled "Camera Lucida; or, Strange Passages from Common Life."

Professor Miall, of Leeds, is chiefly known as a teacher of natural science, but his very lengthy experience has enabled him to compile a volume which embraces all the main branches of scholastic training, and should be of distinct value to those employed in forming the youthful mind. Messrs. Macmillan & Co. are publishing the book under the title of "Thirty Years of Teaching."

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. have an excellent list of technical volumes ready for publication. Among these mention may be made of an anonymous work, "Notes on Political Economy from the Colonial Point of View," the author of which is said to have held high official positions in New Zealand; a practical handbook on the use of the Induction Coil, by Mr. Lewis Wright, the well-known author of a treatise on Light, which is addressed particularly to those employing the apparatus in surgical and physiological work with Roentgen rays; and an issue in volume form of Mr. W. Blake Odgers' lectures in the Middle Temple Hall, entitled "An Outline of the Law of Libel."

In his introduction to the works of a negro poet, Mr. W. D. Howells says: "Paul Dunbar was the only man of pure African blood and of American civilization to feel the negro life æsthetically and express it lyrically." Messrs. Chapman & Hall are affording us an opportunity of appreciating the black bard's genius in a volume of his poems, "Lyrics of Lowly Life."

Another work which Messrs. Chapman & Hall have ready is "Our Trade in the World in relation to Foreign Competition, 1885 to 1895." The author, Mr. William S. H. Gastrell, is Commercial Attaché to the British Embassy at Berlin, and to H.M.'s Legations at Copenhagen and Stockholm. He dedicates his volume to "the British public in the interests of the immense commerce of the English Empire."

The latest recruits to the army of publishers in the metropolis are Messrs. John & Horace Cowley, the new Edinburgh firm, who have fixed their London office in Arundel Street. Their special features will be American fiction by leading authors across the water, and the production of a semi-monthly magazine on the lines of the San Francisco "Argonaut," to be called "The Anti-Philistine," the motto of which is to be "Castigare ridendo."

The present crisis in the East is an opportune moment for the publication in book form of Karl Marx's letters on the Crimean War, written over forty years ago. The epistles, besides throwing light on the events of the times, are of interest from their prophetic spirit. Messrs. Swan Sonnenschein have called the volume "The Eastern Question."

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